

DARWIN REGIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 7th March 2023, Port Darwin Electorate Office
6:00pm – 7:00pm

Quorum: 3 Affiliated schools

1. **Meeting Opened: 6:20pm**
2. **Welcome:** Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting DHS Chair Simon Niblock dialled in for the meeting.
3. **Attendees:**

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	POSITION ON SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE BODY	SCHOOL
Tabetha	Bakunowicz	Chair/Regional Rep	Nakara Primary School
Jacqueline	O'Reilly	Secretary	Henbury School
Simon	Niblock	Chair	Darwin High School
Chad	Banfield	Chair	Larrakeyah Primary School
Michelle	Parker	EO	NTCOGSO Guest

Apologies:

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	POSITION ON SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE BODY	SCHOOL
Liza	Parr	Principal	Nakara Primary School
Melinda	Kealy	Principal	Anula Primary School
Cindy	Kenny	Chair	Casuarina Senior College
Mary	Finlay-Doney	Parent Member	Alawa Primary School
Tracey	Wirrigan-Magee	Chair	Karama Primary School
Rebecca	Moussa	Chair	Dripstone Middle School
Joel	Bowden MLA	Invited Member	Alawa, Jingili, Millner Primary Schools
Meagan	Dempsey	Secretary	Nemarluk School
Tracey	Wirrigan-Magee	Parent Member	Karama Primary School
Sarah	Rheinberger	Parent Member	Parap Primary School
Fiona	Courtney	Teacher Member	Anula Primary School
Rachel	Telford	Chair	Anula Primary School
Hannah	Schwartzkopff	Secretary	Wagaman Primary School
Jenni	Risler	Parent Member	NT School of Distance Education
Richelle	Kent	Chair & Treasurer	Manunda Terrace Primary School & Sanderson Middle School

4. **Conflict of Interest Declarations: Nil**

5. **Minutes previous General Meeting: 18th October 2022** – Minutes not provided by Council. Chair advised she has notes and will send through Minutes to the NT COGSO office.

6. **Business Arising:** Nil

7. **Correspondence In:**

7.1 2022 ANNUAL FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS – 4 Nov 2022

Larrakeyah Chair advised members that the DoE had determined that a Larrakeyah pre-school will not be prioritised for 2023. Larrakeyah Board have funded an additional Teacher Assistant to increase the capacity of the preschool from 22 students to 27 students commencing January 2023 (ACECQA advise 29 students is capacity, however once the number of students exceeds 27 industrial considerations require a second fully qualified early childhood teacher to be employed). Even with enrolments restricted to children residing within the school's primary catchment all of these new places have already been filled. The Board's investigations suggest that Parap Primary school who have a commitment for an additional pre school building, are running at approximately 1/3 capacity.

7.2 NTCOGSO_MOBILE PHONE BAN WELCOMED – 2 Nov 2022

7.3 NTCOGSO_Cash Contributions to the department 'School Resourcing Fund' – 17 Nov 2022

7.4 A Special Update from NT COGSO | e-Cigarettes Information for Families

7.4.1 WA Health_The facts about vaping for young people

7.4.2 Health-Ministers-meeting-communique-24-February-2023

The correspondence was carried over from 2022 until the next meeting held.

8. **Correspondence Out:** Nil

9. **Business Arising from Correspondence:**

10. **Regional Representative Report:**

11. **General Business:**

11.1 Preliminary and Final School Budgets - Dates NTCOGSO

NTCOGSO Executive Officer provided an update on the proposed dates for release of the 2023 preliminary and final budgets.

Preliminary Budgets due 6 April 2023

Final Budgets due week 2, term 2 2023.

11.2 Casuarina Square Ban on Students NTCOGSO

NTCOGSO Executive Officer provided an update and advised the President had spoken with both Sanderson Middle school and Casuarina Senior College Chairs. Both advised their school communities are not in support of a ban on all students for the few who behaved poorly. The

President represented these school representative bodies and their position on media with ABC radio Darin interview 7 Mar 2023.

For Noting:

11.3 The national trend of school refusal and related matters

Submissions Close: **22 March 2023**

[The national trend of school refusal and related matters – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](https://aph.gov.au)

11.4 The issue of increasing disruption in Australian school classrooms

On 28 November 2022, the Senate referred “The issue of increasing disruption in Australian school classrooms” to the Education and Employment Reference Committee for inquiry and report by the first sitting day in July 2023.

Submissions requested by **31 March 2023**.

[The issue of increasing disruption in Australian school classrooms – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](https://aph.gov.au)

Members noted the above Australian government Committees.

New Agenda Item

11.5 School Counsellors - DHS Board

Concerns were raised regarding the departments position to move School Counsellors into the Mitchell Centre and out of schools. Council is aware of at least two Counsellors who have resigned rather than move into the Mitchell Centre. Now working with non-government schools.

Regional Council does not support moving Counsellors to the department’s head office and away from a responsive, relationship building place in schools.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 8th May, 6:00 – 7:00pm, Fong Lim Electorate Office, Stuart Park

13. Meeting Close: 7:05pm